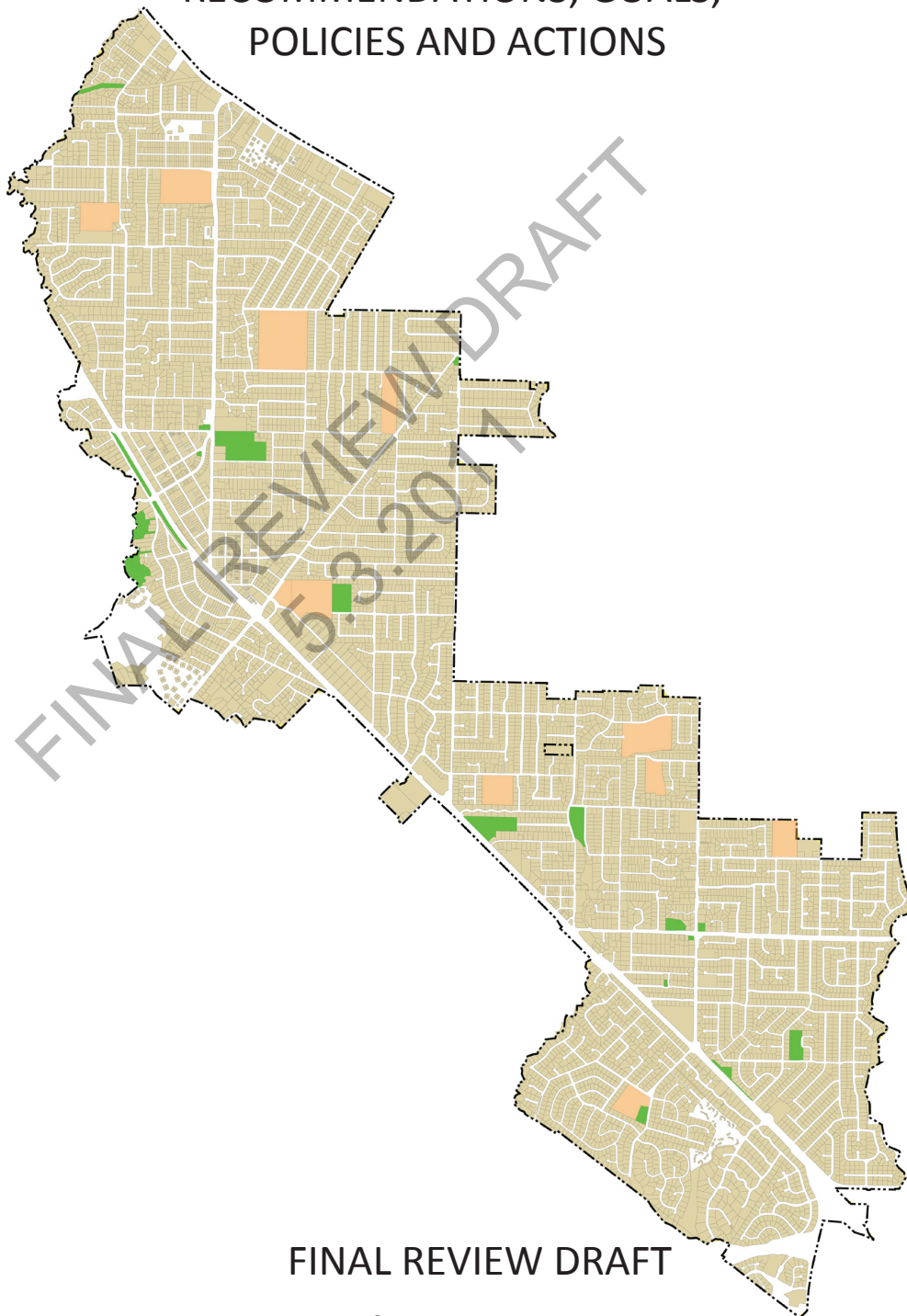




LOS ALTOS PARKS PLAN 2011

VOLUME 1

RECOMMENDATIONS, GOALS,
POLICIES AND ACTIONS



FINAL REVIEW DRAFT

SUBMITTED BY
ROYSTON HANAMOTO ALLEY & ABEY

May 3, 2011



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan would not have been possible without the assistance and participation of a great number of individuals:

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LOS ALTOS PARKS PLAN 2011 - VOLUME 1: RECOMMENDATIONS, GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

SECTION 01: RECOMMENDATIONS, GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

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LOS ALTOS PARKS PLAN 2011 - VOLUME 2: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

LOS ALTOS PARKS PLAN 2011 - VOLUME 3: APPENDICES

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CHAPTER 1

RECOMMENDATIONS, GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THE PARKS PLAN

The *City of Los Altos Parks Plan 2011* – **Volumes 1, 2 and 3** are a tool to guide the City of Los Altos in parks planning on a long-term basis. This document contains policies and recommendations for day-to-day tasks, as well as standards and guidelines for planning future parks and recreation facilities.

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process includes three significant report milestones:

- Administrative Draft – Working draft of the Plan distributed amongst key City staff for review, study and comment.
- Draft Plan – Comments of the Administrative Draft are incorporated, and the report is open to public review and comment.
- Final Plan – Final comments from the public, Council, PARC (Park, Arts and Recreation Commission), and key City staff are incorporated before release of the final report. The Final Plan – Volume 1 will be adopted by the Council upon approval.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PARKS PLAN

The *Los Altos Parks Plan 2011* is comprised of the following **volumes and sections**:

Volume 1

- Section 01: Recommendations, Goals, Policies and Actions

Volume 2

- Section 01: Who We Are
- Section 02: What We Need And Want
- Section 04: Where We're Headed
- Section 03: What We Have

Volume 3

- Appendices

VOLUME 1

Section 01: Recommendations, Goals, Policies and Actions is the heart of the document volumes. Volume 1 will be adopted by the City Council and will serve as the basis for future actions in guiding the development of parks and facilities in Los Altos. This volume will be supported by Volume 2 which provides all of the background information from which the recommendations, goals, policies and actions were derived and Volume 3 with additional supporting appendix information.

VOLUME 2

Section 01: Who We Are presents the executive summary as well as an introduction to Los Altos parks and community. The introduction discusses the purpose, components, other plans, planning process, general



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

plan and the City of Los Altos organization. This section also presents a glimpse into the history and demographics of Los Altos, as well as an inventory and assessment of the existing parks and facilities.

Section 02: What We Need And Want reveals the needs of the community as uncovered through the public outreach process. This section highlights special issues that the City has identified and which it must consider with any future park development.

Section 03: What We Have provides an in-depth look at the existing parks and facilities of Los Altos. This chapter assesses each park and facility as well as noting any accessibility issues. Specific recommendations for each of these parks and other sections of this chapter can be found in Volume 1.

Section 04: Where We're Headed presents several important elements including: special issues to consider; park, facility and parking standards and guidelines to help direct planning efforts; funding; and a timeline for prioritization and implementation. The closing element provides a schedule for the City to follow for on-going and planning updates of this document.

VOLUME 3

Appendices compile the detailed information gathered throughout the process in the form of relevant appendices.

VOLUME 1

SECTION 01: RECOMMENDATIONS, GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

- Chapter 1: Recommendations

This chapter is the culmination of input from the community, consultant team, City Council, Parks Arts and Recreation Commission and City staff. These recommendations form the basis for the creation of goals, policies and actions in Chapter 2: Goals, Policies and Actions.

- Chapter 2: Goals, Policies and Actions

The Mission Statement for this *Los Altos Parks Plan 2011* establishes the overall direction for parks and facilities in the City of Los Altos. The goals, policies and actions of this *Parks Plan* are intended to supplement those of the City's adopted General Plan. Goals included in this section serve as directives for development and maintenance of parks and facilities. From these goals, policies are generated that specify the process toward achieving the goals. The goals and policies are implemented by the City through the actions set forth in this chapter.

VOLUME 2

SECTION 01: WHO WE ARE

- Chapter 1: Executive Summary
- Chapter 2: Introduction



The City of Los Altos is committed to preserving and improving the quality of life of its residents by providing adequate parks, facilities and recreation opportunities. The *Los Altos Parks Plan 2011* is organized so as to preserve the unique character of the community through future growth and changes, while integrating additional parks and amenities. These efforts will continue to expand and contribute to the development of distinctive and memorable parks in Los Altos.

This report is designed to support the following principal objectives:

- Identify and assess the inventory of the City's park facilities.
 - Conduct a cohesive survey and interviews with stakeholders and community members.
 - Create goals that prioritize community needs for expansion and improvements.
 - Set policy to support community goals.
 - Set an implementable action plan for cooperation with other communities, projects, fostering of relationships, defining priorities and establishing phasing.
- Chapter 3: Community Profile
This Chapter discusses the community profile of Los Altos. This highly educated and family-oriented City of approximately 28,000 residents is located within Santa Clara County approximately 40 miles south of downtown San Francisco. With a land area of only 6.4 square miles, it is one of the smallest peninsula community populations.
 - Chapter 4: Park Acreage Comparison
Based on the information gathered from the Census and through research of surrounding communities, Los Altos is compared to other municipalities with regard to parks and recreational facilities.

SECTION 02: WHAT WE NEED AND WANT

- Chapter 5: Community Outreach
Community Outreach was achieved through focus group meetings, a community workshop, stakeholder interviews, emails and a telephone survey. The summary analyses indicate a common desire in the community for a number of additional amenities and improvements including, but not limited to: additional sports fields, shade elements in play and picnic areas, safety fencing, a dog park, clean restrooms, more drinking fountains, an interactive water feature, community pool, and bike and walking paths.

SECTION 03: WHAT WE HAVE

- Chapter 6: Key Findings is a discussion of key findings that arose during the community outreach process and in discussion with City staff and which were identified by PARC and City Council in the project Request for Proposal (RFP). These findings are summarized and addressed in more detail in related sections of the Parks Plan.
- Chapter 7: Parks and Facilities Assessment and Recommendations
The City of Los Altos has 14 parks, preserves and facilities, accounting for a total of **52.56 acres** of developed park land. These park lands were inventoried and assessed for type of amenities offered, general accessibility compliance and general functional issues.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This parks and facility assessment **and recommendations** was created through a process of information collection which included: interview and a park tour with City staff; community input through a survey, focus groups, workshops and emails; information from previous assessments in prepared park plans; and several on-site park assessments.

- **Chapter 8: Special Considerations**

This chapter discusses special considerations, some of which are recommendations and others which are new state-mandated regulations that the City must comply with as related to parks.

Special issues discussed include:

- C3 water regulations which are a provision of the NPDES permit and relate directly to the control of storm water, specifically with regard to new development and redevelopment.
- The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Under this updated State ordinance, the issue of greater water efficiency with regard to landscape irrigation is addressed.
- Landscape Plantings and Maintenance. All plantings should be representative of the rural character of Los Altos while also meeting the maintenance requirements of the City. Plantings can be architectural or informal, incorporate native and/or non-native, and drought tolerant species which will help to reduce maintenance costs and create continuity throughout the park landscapes. Also discussed are how to plant to improve the safety of parks by applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines.
- Green/Sustainable Parks. This section addresses how the City can improve the sustainable qualities of parks through the use of green building materials and techniques.

- **Chapter 9: Recreation Trends**

Recreation is an important part of every community and most people participate in some sort of recreational activity on a regular basis. Recreational trends are an important planning consideration to help determine the most important types and amenities to provide to park users. Though recreational trends vary based on geographical location, weather and community demographics, common recreational themes stand out. Several organizations produce reports on recreation trends both from nationwide and California perspectives. The reports discussed and summarized in this chapter identify trends which can be used to compare surveys and public input generated directly from communities such as Los Altos to help better understand the direction of park development.

The comparison of information in these recreation surveys when compared to Los Altos identify the presence of overlap and serve to reinforce the information gathered through park surveys and input from the Los Altos community.

- **Chapter 10: Park and Facility Standards and Guidelines**

This chapter addresses standards for community parks and facilities. The standards outlined in this section are to serve as a guide to City officials, planners, developers and contractors in the implementation of the goals as outlined in Section 05 – Implementation Plan. The material presented in this section should serve as a template for the City and others wishing to develop or upgrade facilities and/or parks within Los Altos city limits and planning areas.

This chapter also provides guidance and direction for existing and future parks, and for making existing facilities safer and more accessible. References include the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the State of California and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Attention to the details of safety and accessibility, now and in the future, is critical for successful growth and expansion of the Los Altos park system.



- Chapter 11: Funding Strategies
The ability of Los Altos to meet the demand for parks and facilities for the current and growing population is rooted in capital improvement financing as well as funding ongoing maintenance and operations. This chapter discusses the need to implement *Los Altos Parks Plan 2011* action items, along with a funding strategy. Various funding sources are presented, such as government grants, developer fees and debt financing.
- Chapter 12: On-Going Planning and Updates
As a “living document,” the *Los Altos Parks Plan 2011* maintains credibility over time if updated and revised on a regular basis. In order to remain relevant to the changing recreation needs of the community, ongoing planning is an important process in which specific elements of the report can be re-evaluated and updated according to a proposed schedule.

VOLUME 3: APPENDICIES

- Appendices
This section contains supporting and more detailed information including the Parks Telephone Survey; community outreach; ADA guidelines; City documents; presentations and plant list.

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CHAPTER 2

RECOMMENDATIONS

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CHAPTER 2: RECOMMENDATIONS

- General Overall Recommendations
- Individual Park Recommendations
 - Community Plaza
 - Grant Park
 - Heritage Oaks Park
 - Hillview Park
 - Lincoln Park
 - Marymeade Park
 - McKenzie Park
 - Montclair Park
 - Redwood Grove Preserve
 - Rosita Park
 - San Antonio Club
 - Shoup Park
 - Village Park
 - Hetch Hetchy Path
 - Woodland Library
 - Fremont/Grant Parcels
 - Springer/El Monte Parcel
 - Green Oaks Lane and Bendigo Drive Parcel
 - Community Pool
 - Field Space
 - Skate Park
 - Dog Park
 - Playgrounds

PARKS AND FACILITIES: GENERAL OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

The items listed below are “general” recommendations based on all Los Altos parks as a whole. These recommendations were generated through community outreach, City staff and consultant opinions. For more information regarding the background information that influenced the creation of these recommendations, please refer to [Los Altos Parks Plan - Volume 2: Background Information](#). For specific recommendations of each park, refer to individual parks following these general recommendations.

- Address and correct accessibility issues to meet ADA and Title 24 standards and requirements, including, but not limited to: restrooms, pathways, parking, site furnishings and playgrounds.
- Provide flush restrooms at all parks unless noted otherwise (ex: Village Park). Refer to Skate and Dog Park amenity provisions under [Chapter 10: Park and Facility Standards: Special Use Parks](#).
- Consider providing changing tables in restrooms for new restrooms or improvements to existing restrooms. Prioritize those parks which receive the highest use by families with young children.
- Provide more seating and shade opportunities at play areas.
- Create consistent and iconic signage (Marymeade Park example).
- Adopt site furnishings and lighting standards for park aesthetic continuity.
- Add new engineered wood fiber to play areas. Fiber in many areas has broken down and thus may not meet material accessibility standards.
- Update irrigation systems to meet current water conservation guidelines and standards.
- Based on best practices, build a universally ADA accessible playground.
- Explore installing resilient rubber poured in place matting in tot play areas in lieu of wood fiber.
- Provide fenced enclosures at play areas (tot areas at a minimum). Provide shade and seating within.
- Provide varied park amenities such as game tables, bocce or pétanque to serve less active groups.
- Develop long-term site design plans for Shoup, McKenzie, Marymeade, Lincoln, Heritage Oaks, San Antonio Club and Community Plaza.
- Further explore the possibility of locating an enclosed off-leash dog park within Los Altos.
- Build a suitable skateboarding amenity (park, path or element) for the youth of Los Altos. Potential locations include Lincoln Park, Woodland Library or the Civic Center.
- Build a community pool.



RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY PLAZA: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Revitalize the plaza space by reorganizing, redesigning and incorporating an iconic feature such as a fountain.
- Reference sketches created by Terry Reckord in 2009.
- View this location as a community gathering area, gateway and activity epicenter with the possibility of creating new and dynamic events to revitalize the downtown.

GRANT PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment.
- Install activation bollard at water play area to reduce water usage.
- Improve maintenance of fibar next to sand play. Overall, fibar is in need of redressing to meet fall attenuation compliance.
- Increase shaded seating with trees or shade structure.
- Resurface deteriorating asphalt pathways.
- Replace benches and picnic tables with updated furnishings.
- Replace light fixtures and poles.
- Create loop path around perimeter of park. Include mileage markers.
- Explore the addition of a sand volleyball court adjacent to the basketball court in the southwest corner or a splash pad (zero-depth) water feature.
- Maintain north and west sides and northeast corner of park as buffers for residential areas.
- Explore possibility of including regulation softball field which can overlay current soccer field.

HERITAGE OAKS PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment.
- Erect signage and barriers along Permanente Creek.
- Provide fenced play areas (tot area at a minimum).
- Provide shaded seating at play areas.
- Address issues surrounding sand adjacent to fibar to meet accessibility requirements.
- Provide additional perpendicular parking along McKenzie or Portland.
- Update light fixtures and poles.
- Replace deteriorating picnic tables and benches.
- Develop southern portion of park.
- Explore possibility of additional turf area, play opportunities such as a splash pad (zero-depth) water feature.

HILLVIEW PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a community pool as part of the LACC Master Plan.
- Reconsider providing a skate park, even if temporary, as part of the Community Center or at the existing facility.



LINCOLN PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the [Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment](#).
- Address County ownership and explore possibility for purchase.
- Extend southern path to end of northern parcel and/or create loop path.
- Add utilities (outlets) for improved park event opportunities.
- Add drinking fountain and additional seating.
- Explore additional uses of park (dog park, skate park, etc.).
Explore addition of flush restroom facility based on any additional uses such as a dog or skate park.

MARYMEADE PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the [Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment](#).
- Construct a new ADA accessible path along the back (north) side of the tennis courts from the parking lot.
- Provide fencing along Fremont Avenue at west side of park.
- Provide recycling receptacle at parking lot.
- Redress play areas with new wood fiber. Correct at ramp to meet accessibility requirements.
- Upgrade irrigation system to meet water conservation standards.
- Explore the creation of additional off-street parking along Fremont at the western side of park.
- Replace and/or resurface pathways. If replacement required, meet ADA requirements.
- Replace light fixtures.
- Replace deteriorated landscaping with hardy, drought-tolerant plants.
- Replace outdated and deteriorating picnic tables and benches.

MCKENZIE PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the [Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment](#).
- Address long-term parking in parking lots for non-park users.
- Increase available seating at play areas.
- Address drainage issues in the back lawn area through additional storm drains and revised grading.
- Relocate tennis backboard inside of tennis courts.
- Redress fiber in play areas to meet requirements for accessibility.
- Repair or replace root damaged asphalt pathways.
- Repair tripping hazards caused by uneven paving surfaces.

MONTCLAIRE PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the [Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment](#).
- Remove oleanders (poisonous) and prune shade trees.
- Replace deteriorating site furnishings including benches, picnic tables and barbeques.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace tennis court lighting.
- Provide flush restrooms.

REDWOOD GROVE: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop plan to build facility or to renovate or adaptively reuse Los Altos local landmark Halsey House for educational or instructional purposes within Redwood Grove – include ADA accessible flush restrooms as part of any new facility.
- Provide ADA accessible parking per 1980 Master Plan recommendations.
- Maintain connection to Redwood Grove from Manresa Road.
- Explore potential for developing a trail connection to the Los Altos Hills trail system.
- Improve internal paths of travel to meet codes for ADA accessibility compliance.
- Improve interpretive and directional signage. This includes improvement of signage that states the rules and regulations of the park.
- Continue to explore construction of an ADA accessible path from Shoup Park to Redwood Grove.
- Maintain abandoned section of Fremont Road to the active section of Fremont Road in Los Altos Hills.

ROSITA PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- No recommendations. At the time of publication, Rosita Park was under construction.

647 N. SAN ANTONIO ROAD: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment.
- Make building available for rental.
- Retain building as a local landmark historical structure.
- Upgrade existing playground as park for public access during non-use hours.

SHOUP PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment.
- Continue to explore construction of an ADA accessible path from Shoup Park to Redwood Grove.
- Institute parking rule time limits to reduce long-term parking by non-park users.
- Improve group picnic reservations and signage.
- Explore possibility of Neighborhood Patrols to assist with enforcement, park safety and noise after hours.
- Improve signage and fencing along Adobe Creek.
- Improve pedestrian access from University Avenue.
- Explore moving restrooms to improve traffic/parking circulation and ADA.



VILLAGE PARK: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address ADA accessibility issues noted under 'Accessibility.' This can be found in the Parks Plan Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Assessment.
- Include additional picnic tables.
- Explore as possible location for inclusion of activities such as bocce or pétanque.
- Provide a restroom at Village Park.

HETCH HETCHY PATH: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore possible addition of site furnishings such as rules and regulation signs, benches and low level lighting (as needed) at path entry points.
- Include updated signage if City establishes park signage standards.
- Work with SFPUC to provide such amenities and improvements.

EL MONTE AVENUE: RECOMMENDATIONS

- When benches need replacing, replace with approved City standard benches.
- Add picnic table(s).
- Potential sculpture site.
- Potential small fenced playground with structure(s).
- Additional plantings to improve entry statement.

WOODLAND BRANCH LIBRARY: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore the potential for creating a pocket park with playground structures, seating and shelter.
- Review site safety with Police enforcement.
- Explore as potential location for skate park/elements along Grant Road.

FREMONT/GRANT PARCELS: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore the potential for creating two garden demonstration parks with more sculptures.
- Explore opportunities to improve access to park and thus other use potential.

GREEN OAKS LANE AND BENDIGO PARCEL: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore the potential for creating a neighborhood park.
- Create a park design which reduces impact to the existing oak trees.
- Have arborist review protected/heritage oak(s).

COMMUNITY POOL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a community pool.



FIELD SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with local schools to create school-parks with multi-use sports fields through joint-use agreements.
- Provide additional multi-use sports fields through improvement of existing park fields (Grant, Hillview and Rosita) and development of new parks.
- Seek to provide a minimum acreage of 5 useable (appropriate slope and drainage to support recreation activities) acres in new parks for the use of multi-use sports fields.
- Provide softball field on City parkland and/or through joint-use agreements with schools. Provide a minimum 200' outfield, 60' pitching mound and a fully skinned infield.
- Explore land acquisition in Los Altos for the potential development of an indoor sports facility.
- Provide multi-use sports fields (soccer, baseball and softball). Prioritize development of such fields in underserved areas. Balance underserved areas with service goals under NPRA standards and guidelines with regard to fields. Refer to Maps D and E and NPRA standards in Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Standards and Guidelines.

SKATE PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a suitable skateboarding amenity (park, path or element) for the youth of Los Altos.
- Ideal skate park locations are: Lincoln Park, Woodland Library parcel, and Hillview/Civic Center.
- Lincoln Park is the most ideal location besides Hillview/Civic Center. Park should include additional amenities such as a restroom and seating (see Volume 2 - Chapter 10: Park and Facilities Standards and Guidelines for more detailed requirements for a successful park).
- Explore the option of a skateable art placed along a linear pathway to allow for multi-use opportunities and an interesting and attractive way to blend skateboarding into the park environment.
- Skate park/path/element which is easily observed by law enforcement; 2) close to public transportation and/or bike paths; and 3) which does not impact residential areas.

DOG PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to allow dogs on-leash at all Los Altos parks.
- Further explore the possibility of locating an enclosed off-leash dog park within Los Altos. Lincoln Park (south) is a suitable location. (see Volume 2 - Chapter 10: Park and Facilities Standards and Guidelines for more detailed requirements for a successful off-leash dog park).
- Explore the opportunity to share new facilities (restroom) with skate park/path at Lincoln Park.
- Encourage and be supportive of grass-roots dog park organizations.

PLAYGROUND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add new engineered wood fiber to play areas. Fiber in many areas has broken down and thus may not meet material accessibility standards.
- Based on best practices, build a universally ADA accessible playground.
- Explore installing resilient rubber poured in place matting in tot play areas in lieu of wood fiber.
- Provide fenced enclosures at play areas (tot areas at a minimum).
- Provide shade and seating at play areas.



- Create themed, diverse, exciting and interesting playgrounds throughout Los Altos.
- Provide additional playgrounds in Los Altos. Prioritize development of playgrounds in underserved areas. Balance underserved areas with service goals distance of ¼ mile. Refer to Map F in [Volume 2 – Chapter 10: Parks and Facilities Standards and Guidelines](#).

PARKING RECOMMENDATIONS

For background information regarding these parking recommendations, please see [Parks Plan – Volume 2, Chapter 10: Parks and Facility Standards and Guidelines](#).

REDWOOD GROVE

- **Recommendation:** Implement accessible parking recommendation in the 1980 Master Plan for Redwood Grove. Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines.

VILLAGE PARK

- **Recommendation:** Allow for 2 hr parking limit in drop-off area. Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines in the public lot.

LINCOLN PARK

- **Recommendation:** Provide accessible parking adjacent to the gazebo at the north end of Lincoln Park. An accessible path of travel should be provided in this location as well with the potential for extending a loop path around the perimeter. An accessible parking space should be located adjacent to the park on the south end. Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines.

GRANT PARK

- **Recommendation:** Provide Van accessible parking space per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines.

MARYMEADE

- **Recommendation:** In the existing lot, provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines. Explore the potential for off-street parking area along Fremont at the west side of the park.

SHOUP

- **Recommendation:** Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines. At a minimum, locate new accessible spaces in lot near restrooms. Explore the options of installing parking signage limiting parking to 2 hrs to discourage long-term parking. If future police enforcement budgets allow, explore the possibility of instituting resident parking permits.



HILLVIEW

- **Recommendation:** Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines.

ROSITA

- **Recommendation:** Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines.

MCKENZIE

- **Recommendation:** Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA Accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines. Remove backboard area from large parking area. Explore the options of installing limited parking signage limiting hours to discourage long-term parking. If future police enforcement budgets allow, explore the possibility of instituting resident parking permits.

HERITAGE OAKS

- **Recommendation:** Provide accessible parking spaces per ADA accessibility standards and recommended parking guidelines. Increase the number of available perpendicular spaces along McKenzie Avenue.

RECOMMENDED PARKING GUIDELINES:

GENERAL PARKING GUIDELINES:

- Provide 25% of all spaces as large spaces (minimum 9' width) for "family" vehicles.
- Provide minimum of 25% of all spaces as compact (minimum 8' width). Identify spaces as "Compact Cars."

PARKING AREAS ADJACENT TO LAWN AREAS:

- To compensate for vehicular over-hang, provide wheel stops in parking spaces or provide a minimum 6' wide concrete walkway to allow operation of lawn mowers when vehicles are parked.
- Where possible, provide off-street parking which does not reduce parkland.



CHAPTER 3

RECOMMENDATIONS, GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS: GOALS, POLICIES AND
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CHAPTER 3: GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The actions identified herein culminate from public outreach, data collection, facility assessment and consultant recommendations including input from PARC and City staff. This input and information provides a basis for the development of formalized missions, objectives, goals, policies and actions included as part of the final Parks Plan document.

The resulting objectives, goals and policies are intended to supplement and align with those of the City's Open Space, Conservation and Community Facilities Element of the General Plan. The Objectives serve as guidelines for development and maintenance of Los Altos parks. Supporting goals generate an outline of the recommended processes necessary to achieve the desired plan outcomes. Ultimately, the implementation of these objectives and goals will be achieved through the stated policies and actions.

MISSION

- ☐ *The mission of our City staff, council, commissions, committees and volunteers is to foster and maintain the City of Los Altos as a great place to live and to raise a family.*

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The following general objectives will be useful in guiding the City of Los Altos in defining more specific goals, policies and action plans for developing City park needs.

- ☐ *Enhance the quality of life in Los Altos by providing multiple outdoor recreation opportunities to meet community-wide recreation needs.*
- ☐ *Make parks and facilities accessible, where feasible, to individuals regardless of age, race, gender, religion, disability or income level.*
- ☐ *Maximize park resources and opportunities through collaborative efforts with other public agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector.*
- ☐ *Develop a variety of viable and affordable financing mechanisms for the acquisition, improvement, maintenance and long term operations of parks.*
- ☐ *Provide linkages through the use and development of trails, streets and bikeways to unite the park system within Los Altos and to bordering communities.*
- ☐ *Continue to protect the distinctive and cherished rural quality of Los Altos.*
- ☐ *Promote sustainability and respect for the environment through the use of green building technologies, water conservation and sustainable landscape maintenance practices.*



- ☐ *Preserve and enhance selected historic and cultural structures and resources within the community.*
- ☐ *Address identified issues such as: preserving and enhancing open space resources (GP-Issue 1); protecting and preserving important natural resources (GP-Issue 2); expanding recreational programs and facilities (GP-Issue), Providing facilities and services to meet the community, civic, social and cultural needs (GP – Issue 6).*
- ☐ *Continue to promote installation of site appropriate public art throughout Los Altos parks.*

PRIORITIES TIMELINE

For short and long-term planning efforts, actions have been prioritized to help the City identify those actions which require more immediate attention and those which can be addressed at a later date.

Items assigned a “1” in the “Priority” column are to be addressed within the short-term of the Parks Plan adoption.

Items assigned a priority of “2” are to be addressed within the mid-term of Parks Plan adoption.

Items assigned a priority of “3” are to be addressed within the long-term of Parks Plan adoption.

OBJECTIVE 1 – PARKS AND FACILITIES

Provide a well-distributed, enhanced, and diversified park system that meets current and future needs of Los Altos residents and improves the overall quality of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Goal 1.1: Preserve and expand the amount of park land in and around Los Altos.

Policy 1.1.1: Provide additional parks and facilities with a goal of 5 acres of parkland per 1000 residents.

Action 1.1.1	Priority
Action A: Continue to identify and acquire additional land for parks and recreational uses in line with the City’s general and fiscal plan (GP 1.2).	1
Action B: Continue to require park dedication, public open space or require fees in-lieu thereof, for all new subdivisions and multi-family residential developments in Los Altos (GP 1.4).	1
Action C: Seek cooperative agreements for joint use of school facilities with area School Districts. See Goal 1.4.	1

Policy 1.1.2: Provide well-distributed parks and facilities throughout the City within ½ mile of all Los Altos residents by examining the following possibilities where feasible.



Action 1.1.2	Priority
Action A: Provide a neighborhood park in North-Central Los Altos.	1
Action B: Maintain the property at Bendigo Drive and Green Oaks Lane as public open-space.	1
Action C: Retain Lincoln Park, regardless of ownership, as a City park.	1
Action D: Provide a City park and playground at Woodland Library.	2
Action E: Review the use of San Antonio Club and potential as a rental facility.	2
Action F: Explore the development of underutilized parcels of land as community gardens and/or water conservation demonstration gardens or undeveloped green belt. Provide seating and signage.	2
Action G: Provide a playground at El Monte parcel.	?
Action H: Provide a playground at Village Park.	?
Action I: Provide playgrounds where feasible within ¼ mi of all Los Altos residents.	?

Policy 1.1.3: Develop a system of parks and facilities which can accommodate optimal opportunities for both passive and active recreational use.

Action 1.1.3	Priority
Action A: Explore creation of new multi-use sports fields by creating school-parks through joint-use agreements.	1
Action B: Pursue the development of community pool facilities (GP 3.5). Support the development of a community pool as part of the Civic Center complex (deleted from previous edits)	1
Action C: Provide additional multi-use sports fields through improvement of existing park fields (Grant, Hillview and Rosita) and development of new parks.	2
Action D: Seek to provide a minimum acreage of 5 useable (appropriate slope and drainage to support recreation activities) acres in new parks for the use of multi-use sports fields.	2
Action E: Provide softball field on City parkland and/or through joint-use agreements with schools. Provide a minimum 200' outfield, 60' pitching mound and a fully skinned infield.	2
Action F: Support PARC's desire to explore land acquisition in Los Altos for the potential development of an indoor sports facility.	3
Action G: Provide park playgrounds which are creative and diverse.	?
Action H: Develop plan to build facility or to renovate or adaptively reuse Los Altos local landmark Halsey House for educational or instructional purposes within Redwood Grove – include ADA accessible flush restrooms as part of any new facility.	?



GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

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Policy 1.1.4: Maintain dedicated parkland and acquire additional land for park use.

Action 1.1.4	Priority
Action A: Maintain dedicated parkland in public ownership (GP 1.3).	1

Goal 1.2: Enhance, develop and maintain current parks facilities to meet needs of Los Altos citizens.

Policy 1.2.1: Establish park design standards compatible with City maintenance capabilities and consistent with the City's financial and staffing resources.

Action 1.2.1	Priority
Action A: Continue to provide a level of maintenance for City parks which ensures safety, aesthetics and the recreational enjoyment for Los Altos residents (GP 4.1).	1
Action B: Provide attractive parks and facilities sited and designed to optimize safety.	1
Action AC: Review and update the Master Plant List for the City of Los Altos parks and other public areas that includes, though is not limited to, acceptable plant types, specifications for planting, layout plan examples, planting sections, guidelines for soil, irrigation and maintenance.	2

Policy 1.2.2: Enhance current parks facilities by adding to and/or updating site amenities.

Action 1.2.2	Priority
Action A: Provide restrooms at all parks where feasible that conform to current accessibility requirements.	1
Action B: Upgrade restrooms as noted in Facilities Assessment chapter.	1
Action C: Maintain sand features with water elements at Marymeade, Shoup and Grant parks.	1
Action D: Continue to ensure all fall attenuating materials meet ADA accessibility requirements.	1
Action E: Continue to allow dogs on-leash at all Los Altos parks.	1
Action F: Provide shade coverage at all play areas through the use of shade structures and/or large shade trees. At a minimum shade slides, platforms and steps. Where feasible, provide a minimum of 50% shade coverage at play structures and sand/water play areas.	2
Action G: Provide adequate seating opportunities at all play areas with 50% shade coverage of seating through the use of shade structures and/or large shade trees.	2



Action H: Provide pet waste disposal stations, litter bags and receptacles at all parks and along pathways and trails where pets are allowed by City ordinance. Post signage at the stations that state the municipal code.	2
Action I: Provide gated fence enclosures at tot play areas as needed for safety at Heritage Oak, Shoup and Montclair parks.	2
Action J: Promote inclusion of natural elements such as boulders for use in all parks as both seating and/or play elements.	2
Action K: Provide interpretive and directional signage in parks.	2
Action L: Provide group picnic areas for rental at all parks where feasible.	2
Action M: Provide additional turf fields suitable for organized sports.	2
Action N: Explore development of artificial turf athletic fields.	2
Action O: Consider providing a universally accessible playground.	2
Action P: Provide water play features (zero-depth splash pad) where feasible. Consider for Grant, McKenzie and Hillview parks.	3
Action Q: City to update park and facility standards every 10 years to maintain current and modern design.	

Policy 1.2.3: Provide and improve parking at all Los Altos parks where feasible.

Action 1.2.3	Priority
Action A: Remove backboard from McKenzie Park parking lot and relocate within tennis courts.	1
Action B: Explore restricting parking window at Shoup and McKenzie parks to discourage commuter and cyclist all-day parking. Provide adequate signage.	1
Action C: Provide accessible parking at all parks as required to meet ADA requirements.	1
Action D: Supply additional perpendicular parking at Heritage Oaks Park along McKenzie Avenue.	2
Action E: Install signage throughout all Los Altos parks indicating parking restrictions.	2
Action F: Consider a 2 hr parking limit at the drop-off area at Village Park.	2
Action G: Explore the potential for parking along Fremont Avenue at the former bus stop area along the west side of Marymeade Park.	2

Policy 1.2.4: Explore and/or provide locations for special use facilities.

Action 1.2.4	Priority
Action A: Further explore the possibility of locating an enclosed	3



off-leash dog park within Los Altos at Lincoln Park (south) (or at Woodland Library?)	
Action B: Provide a skate park/path at Lincoln, Woodland Library or the Civic Center that 1) is easily observed by law enforcement; 2) close to public transportation and/or bike paths; and 3) which does not impact residential areas.	3

Policy 1.2.5: Provide a central gathering place for public events.

Action 1.2.5	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action A: Explore expansion and enhancement of Community Plaza as a community gathering area with the possibility of creating new and dynamic events to revitalize the downtown. Include an iconic feature. 	2

Policy 1.2.6: Ensure proper maintenance and safety of parks and facilities.

Action 1.2.6	Priority
Action A: Continue to replace deteriorating site amenities.	1
Action B: Continue to address safety issues along creeks in parks during inclement weather.	1
Action C: Continue to repair and replace deteriorating pathways.	1
Action D: Consider the opportunity to create assessment districts for unique landscaping, facilities or maintenance needs (GP 4.2).	2

Goal 1.3: Cooperate with other governments, districts, and the private sector.

Policy 1.3.1: Negotiate joint agreements between the City and public school districts and private schools to share facilities, personnel, programs and future land purchase opportunities.

Action 1.3.1	Priority
Action A: Propose City maintenance services for all joint-use properties in line with economic feasibility and cost recovery models. Support participation in coordination with their on-going facilities planning.	1
Action B: Continue the park rental program.	1
Action C: Explore the potential for building an all-season artificial turf field at a school site and joint-use facility to support expanded fee-based programming. Provide minimal lighting for practice purposes that meet current City lighting ordinance requirements.	2



OBJECTIVE 2 – CONNECTIONS AND CIRCULATION

Encourage the development of an inter-connected park system through the use of landscaped paths, sidewalks, bikeways, trails, alleys and school facilities.

Goal 2.1: Develop and promote a pathway system within the City, which also connects to open space and trails in surrounding areas (GP- Goal 5).

Policy 2.1.1: Connect Los Altos neighborhoods with 1) commercial districts; 2) schools; and 3) City park and recreational facilities. Ensure that all residential neighborhoods have adequate and direct pedestrian and cyclist linkages with these destination and facilities.

Action 2.1.1	Priority
Action A: Develop perimeter walking paths and loops, where feasible, in existing and new parks. When necessary, provide pathways accessible by emergency vehicles and services. Limit access to such paths with the use of locked, removable bollards.	1
Action B: Explore a pathway between Redwood Grove and Shoup Park.	1
Action C: Continue to maintain a pathway between the southern end of Redwood Grove and Manressa Lane.	1
Action D: Explore opportunities to develop trails through open space easements.	1
Action E: Monitor the 1986 agreement for the 10-acre open space conservation easement on the Jesuit Retreat property as a pedestrian pathway.	1
Action F: Develop, where possible, bikeways connecting schools and parks.	2

Policy 2.1.2: Connect to surrounding local and regional trails and open space.

Action 2.1.2	Priority
Action A: Work with other Los Altos area communities such as Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino; Cupertino Union School District (CUSD); Los Altos School District (LASD); Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District (MVLA); Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District; Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD); to provide trail connections throughout Los Altos.	1
Action B: Pending discussions with Sunnyvale, Cupertino and Mountain View support the development of the Los Altos portion of the Stevens Creek Trail.	1



Action C: Maintain established link between Fremont Avenue, Los Altos Hills with Redwood Grove.	1
Action D: Explore the potential for developing a trail connection to Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve from Los Altos through Los Altos Hills and/or Cupertino.	2
Action E: Continue to explore opportunities for development of trails in Los Altos along creeks including: Adobe, Permanente, Stevens and Hale.	2

Goal 2.2: Support the community's strong desire for safe access to pathways and trails.

Policy 2.2.1: Consider the needs of all types of trail and pathway users.

Action 2.2.1	Priority
Action A: Where feasible and possible, provide safe access to pathways and trails, for, but not limited to: cyclists and pedestrians.	1

Policy 2.2.2: Support the "Safe Routes to Schools" effort.

Action 2.2.2	Priority
Action A: Develop where possible, shared paths, trails and sidewalks connecting schools to parks. Coordinate locations with Safe Routes to Schools and Los Altos Bicycle Transportation Master Plan.	1
Action B: Provide trail, pathway and bikeway signage throughout Los Altos.	1

OBJECTIVE 3 – ACCESS AND SAFETY

Strengthen the City's commitment to providing an accessible and safe park system for all users of Los Altos parks.

Goal 3.1: Comply with all required Federal, State and Local accessibility and safety regulations, guidelines and standards.

Policy 3.1.1: Adapt existing park facilities and build new park facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Action 3.1.1	Priority
Action A: Continue to provide ADA compliant paths of travel in all parks where topographically feasible.	1
Action B: Provide ADA compliant parking at all parks and facilities.	1



Action C: Provide ADA compliant restrooms at all parks.	1
Action D: Locate restrooms near accessible parking and connect with accessible paths.	1
Action E: Provide ADA compliant picnic and barbeque areas.	1
Action F: Provide ADA compliant drinking fountains at all parks.	1
Action G: Provide ADA compliant access to all playground facilities and equipment.	1
Action H: Provide appropriate ADA compliant signage for all types of users.	1

Policy 3.1.2: Adapt existing park play equipment and install new park play equipment in compliance with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) regulations and standards.

Action 3.1.2	Priority
Action A: Continue to perform yearly audits by certified playground inspector.	1
Action B: Have a certified playground inspector review all proposed new play area improvements.	1

Goal 3.2: Develop park designs and enhance current parks to meet national Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards and guidelines.

Policy 3.2.1: Provide adequate safety lighting for visibility and police patrols to discourage loitering and inappropriate park use.

Action 3.2.1	Priority
Action A: Use shielded or cut-off luminaires to control glare.	1
Action B: Where possible, avoid the creation of “dark” corners in parks.	2

Policy 3.2.2: Create transparency within parks.

Action 3.2.2	Priority
Action A: Continue to use appropriate landscaping which does not create hiding spots. Plant low shrubs under 3’ and groundcovers along with trees limbed to 6’ to allow for clear site lines into parks.	2
Action B: Avoid mounds over 3’.	2



GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Policy 3.2.3: Continue high-level of maintenance in parks.

Action 3.2.3	Priority
Action A: Continue to remove any graffiti or broken park elements immediately. Such efforts communicate safety and an alert and active community.	1

Policy 3.2.4: Involve the Los Altos Police Department.

Action 3.2.4	Priority
Action A: During concept planning phase, solicit input from Los Altos Police Department for park safety assessment.	1

Goal 3.3: Provide emergency vehicle access to parks.

Policy 3.3.1: Continue to provide fire emergency vehicle access to parks.

Action 3.3.1	Priority
Action A: Provide, maintain and improve where feasible, fire emergency access to all Los Altos parks.	1

Policy 3.3.2: Consider emergency vehicle access in all future park design.

Action 3.3.2	Priority
Action A: Continue to work with fire and police during planning process.	1

OBJECTIVE 4 – PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Seek to preserve important aspects of the community that contribute to Los Altos' unique character and heritage including unique natural environments, historic structures and properties.

Goal 4.1: Protect and preserve natural resources.

Policy 4.1.1: Protect creeks, creek side areas and riparian habitat in their natural state while ensuring public safety and preserving a valuable natural resource (GP 2.3).

Action 4.1.1	Priority
Action A: Encourage preservation of creeks and riparian habitat.	1
Action B: Enforce local, state and federal regulations addressing storm water quality and management (GP 2.5).	1



Action C: Comply with the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program C.3 Storm Water Regulations Handbook requirements.	1
Action D: Encourage access and improvements along the creeks on public property (GP 2.8). Such improvements should address safety and visibility concerns, while continuing to protect the stream environment and hydrologic functions.	1
Action E: Encourage development of a regional open space policy (GP 2.1.)	2

Policy 4.1.2: Protect biological resources.

Action 4.1.2	Priority
Action A: Incorporate natural habitat and other “unimproved” areas as part of the design and use of park and open space lands.	1
Action B: Protect native oak woodlands and significant wildlife habitats.	1
Action C: Restore riparian habitat areas along creeks in existing parks, including Heritage Oaks and Shoup parks, similar to the restoration efforts in Redwood Grove.	2

Policy 4.1.3: Develop open space uses in an ecologically sensitive manner.

Action 4.1.3	Priority
Action A: Where biological resources are identified, avoid or mitigate the resources dependent upon applicable classification at local, state and federal levels.	1

Goal 4.2: Encourage recreational activities and maintenance practices that promote resource conservation and the reduction of global warming, carbon footprint and negative environmental impact.

Policy 4.2.1: Reduce use of potable water.

Action 4.2.1	Priority
Action A: Continue to upgrade irrigation systems to meet Local and California State Model Water Efficiency ordinances.	1
Action B: In the event of construction of a recycled water facility in the future, facilitate the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation by requiring the provision of necessary water lines (purple piping) in the development of all new parks and facilities and, where feasible, in the renovation of existing parks and facilities.	1
Action C: Continue irrigation audits at all parks and other publically irrigated properties.	1
Action D: Provide activation bollards at sand play areas to control the use of water.	1



GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Action E: Transition unutilized turf areas to low-water tree and shrub plantings.	3
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Policy 4.2.2: Encourage the use of sustainable practices in park development and maintenance.

Action 4.2.2	Priority
Action A: Follow Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) for the creation of landscape performance guidelines, benchmarks and standards.	1
Action B: Promote the use of environmentally-responsible building materials in development and construction of parks and park facilities.	1

Policy 4.2.3: Provide and construct quality park facilities with the objectives of durability, efficiency and economy.

Action 4.2.3	Priority
Action A: Encourage use of long lasting and indestructible materials for construction of facilities and provision of amenities. Meet or exceed requirements of Green Building Ordinance.	1

Goal 4.3: Support the Los Altos General Plan Community Design and Historic Resources Element.

Policy 4.3.1: Preserve and enhance selected historic and cultural structures and resources within Los Altos Parks.

Action 4.3.1	Priority
Action A: Preserve and enhance such city park structures as Garden House, History House, Neutra House, San Antonio Club and Halsey House.	?
Action B: Work with the Historical Commission when considering any park planning projects that concern existing historical structures	?
Action C: Support all policies regarding historic and cultural resources under the Community Design and Historic Resources Element in the Los Altos General Plan.	?

OBJECTIVE 5 – COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Engage community in a manner that maximizes community involvement and support.

Goal 5.1: Continue to engage Los Altos community members in the park development process.

Policy 5.1.1: Support current practice of providing community input opportunities during the planning and design of parks.



Action 5.1.1	Priority
Action A: Continue to hold public meetings, workshops and surveys to solicit public opinion.	1

Goal 5.2: Communicate with residents to better inform users of recreation opportunities and park amenities.

Policy 5.2.1: Continue to enhance communications through multiple methods.

Action 5.2.1	Priority
Action A: Provide additional information on City website for park users in the form of park maps indicating what amenities exist (i.e., picnic tables, barbeques, shelters, play equipment type, etc.) and where they are located.	1
Action B: Create and maintain a trails map for residents online and at public facilities to promote the use of a trails system. Indicate on maps future trails and connections to garner support and fundraising efforts.	2
Action C: Continue to use attractive, consistent identity program for Los Altos parks through the use of thematic signage and standardized furnishings.	2

OBJECTIVE 6 – FUNDING AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Develop a sustainable funding mechanism for maintenance and operation of Los Altos parks and park facilities.

Goal 6.1: Develop a sustainable funding mechanism for maintenance and operation of Los Altos parks and park facilities.

Policy 6.1.1: Park land and facility expenditures should be supported within the context of the City's short and long-term fiscal plan and forecasts.

Action 6.1.1	Priority
Action A: Expand facility resources and programming which are designed to maximize cost recovery especially as they relate to fee-based and program-specific activities.	1

Policy 6.1.2: Explore special funding for unique facilities, landscape and maintenance needs.



Action 6.1.2	Priority
Action A: Explore landscape and maintenance assessment districts for maintenance needs (GP 4.2).	2
Action B: Explore the creation of Mello-Roos assessment districts for unique facilities.	2
Action C: Consider provisions for revenue generating concessions when designing park facilities.	2

Goal 6.2: Develop a financial strategy to meet the City's desired parkland level of service of 5 acres per 1,000 residents established in the General Plan.

Policy 6.2.1: Promote the acquisition and development of new parks and facilities.

Action 6.2.1	Priority
Action A: Continue to require park dedication, public open space or require fees in-lieu thereof, for all new subdivisions and multi-family residential developments in Los Altos (GP 1.4).	1
Action B: Explore opportunities to preserve open space through easements and transference of development rights.	1
Action C: Research and pursue available grant funding opportunities.	1
Action D: Consider bond and tax measures as options to fund major park and facility improvement and acquisition projects.	2
Action E: Pursue opportunities for future land acquisitions through easements and land gifts.	2

Policy 6.2.2: Develop relationships with other organizations and agencies to meet unmet needs.

Action 6.2.2	Priority
Action A: Explore opportunities to work with other agencies through joint-use agreements to implement park improvements.	1
Action B: Explore opportunities to work with private or service clubs for sponsorships of park improvements.	2

A prioritization list will be included once a final list of goals, policies and actions is compiled.



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FINAL REVIEW DRAFT
5.3.2011

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